(e) the details of action plan formulated for promotion of tourism during the current year and next two years, highlighting the projects to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Tourism projects are sanctioned by the Ministry on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority under the following schemes:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Computerisation and Information Technology
4. Fairs, Festivals and Events.
5. Rural Tourism—Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers.

During the year 2007-08, financial assistance of Rs. 64513.23 lakh has been sanctioned for 277 projects for development and promotion of tourism in various States and Union Territories.

Implementation of projects is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism also reviews the progress of projects with officials from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations at regular intervals.

Adverse effects on tourism due to Goa and Rajasthan incidents

†3088. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the incidents which have taken place in Goa and Rajasthan recently may have adverse effects on the tourism; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) 'Public Orders' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes against tourists is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. Following recent reports in the media regarding harassment and misbehaviour with tourists in India, the Ministry of Tourism discussed the issue of safety and security of tourists, amongst other issues, with Secretaries of Tourism of States/Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. It was emphasized that ensuring the safety and security of tourists is of paramount importance and State Governments/Union Territories must ensure the same. The foreign tourist arrival figure from January to March 2008 has shown an increase of 12.2% over the same period of 2007.

Budget Hotels

†3089. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to make plan for budget hotels in view of increasing tourism in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi